

REMARKS

At the outset, Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the courtesy of a telephone interview on January 31, 2006, wherein issues relating to the prosecution of the present application were discussed. More specifically, clarification regarding receipt of certified copies of the priority documents was requested. This query was prompted by an indication on the Office Action Summary that none of the certified copies of priority documents had been received. The Examiner confirmed that certified copies of all of the priority documents had been received.

Claim 10 is amended herein to correct a clerical error. No issue of new matter is hereby introduced.

Claims 1-18, 35, and 36 are pending.

Provisional Rejections Under the Judicially Created Doctrine of Obviousness-Type Double Patenting

Claims 1-18, 35, and 36 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly unpatentable over claims 1-31 of co-pending U.S. Application No. 10/433,965. A Terminal Disclaimer is attached hereto, the filing of which is believed to overcome the above rejection of pending claims 1-18, 35, and 36 of the present invention under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting.

Fees

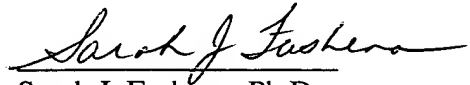
No additional fees are believed to be necessitated by this amendment. However, should this be an error, authorization is hereby given to charge Deposit Account No. 11-1153 for any underpayment or to credit any overpayment.

Conclusion

It is submitted, therefore, that the claims are in condition for allowance. No new matter has been introduced. From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form

of a Notice of Allowance is believed to be next in order, and such action is earnestly solicited. In the event that there are any questions concerning this amendment, or application in general, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned so that prosecution of this application may be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosure: Terminal Disclaimer